

News Release

For immediate release

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Health Care Authority appoints new chair, vice chair of Health Technology Clinical Committee

OLYMPIA – The Health Care Authority today announced new leaders for its Health Technology Clinical Committee (HTCC). Dr. Christopher Standaert will serve as chairman of the HTCC, and Dr. Joann Elmore will serve as vice-chairwoman.

The clinical committee is an independent group of 11 health care practitioners who make evidence-based coverage decisions for selected health technologies, including medical and surgical devices and procedures, medical equipment, and diagnostic tests. Those coverage decisions apply to state-purchased health care, including Apple Health (Medicaid), the Public Employees Benefits Board (PEBB) Program, and the Department of Labor and Industries.

The HTCC is part of the Health Care Authority's Health Technology Assessment program, which determines if health services used by state government are safe and effective. The program relies on scientific or evidence-based information about safety, effectiveness and cost to inform decision and improve quality.

The newly appointed chair and vice chair are experienced members of the HTCC who have a passion for evidence-based medicine.

About Christopher Standaert, MD

Dr. Standaert is a physical medicine and rehabilitation physician, specializing in non-operative spine care and neuro-musculoskeletal rehabilitation with UW Sports and Spine Physicians at Harborview Medical Center. He is a clinical professor in the departments of Rehabilitation Medicine, Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine, and Neurological Surgery at the University of Washington.

Dr. Standaert graduated from Harvard Medical School and completed a residency in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the University of Washington, followed by a fellowship in spine and musculoskeletal medicine in Massachusetts. He has been in practice since 1996 and has been working at Harborview Medical Center since 2005. He has been active in a number of professional medical associations and has served on advisory panels for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid services and the State of Washington. He has a strong interest in health policy and the advancement of effective clinical practice for spine and musculoskeletal disorders. He frequently writes and speaks on related topics.

About Joann Elmore, MD, MPH

Dr. Elmore is a professor of medicine at the University of Washington School of Medicine and adjunct professor of epidemiology at the University of Washington School of Public Health and Community Medicine.

She received her medical degree from Stanford University and completed residency training in internal medicine at Yale-New Haven Hospital, with advanced training in epidemiology from the Yale School of Epidemiology and Public Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Program.

Dr. Elmore was associate director of the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars program at Yale and the University of Washington, recipient of the Robert Wood Johnson Generalist Faculty Award, and subsequently a member of the National Advisory Committee for the Robert Wood Johnson Generalist Faculty award and the Clinical Scholars Program.

Dr. Elmore's clinical and scientific interests include variability in cancer screening, diagnostic testing and the evaluation of new technologies. She has co-authored a textbook on epidemiology, biostatistics and preventive medicine. In addition, Dr. Elmore enjoys seeing patients as a primary care internist and teaching clinical medicine to students and residents.

For more information

- [About the Health Technology Assessment Program](#)

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About Washington State Health Care Authority

HCA is the state's top health care purchaser, covering more than 2 million Washington residents through Apple Health (Medicaid) and the Public Employees Benefits Board (PEBB) Program. We work with partners to help ensure Washingtonians have access to better health and better care at a lower cost. For more information, visit www.hca.wa.gov.

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